

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND CLAIMS

Call to Order: Chair Llew Jones, on March 31, 2017 at 8:00 AM, in Room 317 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Llew Jones, Chair (R)
Sen. Frederick (Eric) Moore, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Duane Ankney (R)
Sen. Mary Caferro (D)
Sen. Terry Gauthier (R)
Sen. David Howard (R)
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)
Sen. Mike Lang (R)
Sen. Mary McNally (D)
Sen. Albert Olszewski (R)
Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R)
Sen. Mike Phillips (D)
Sen. Jon C. Sesso (D)
Sen. Cary Smith (R)
Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn (R)
Sen. Lea Whitford (D)
Sen. Cynthia Wolken (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Prudence Gildroy, Committee Secretary
Julie Johnson, Legislative Branch
Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 383, 3/30/2017; HB 123, 3/30/2017; HB 586, 3/29/2017; HB 70, 3/29/2017; HB 77, 3/29/2017;

Executive Action: HB 44 Be Concurred In - Motion withdrawn

HEARING ON HB 383

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:13 Rep. Geraldine Custer (R), HD 39, opened the hearing on HB 383, Provide actuarial required funding for Sheriff's Retirement System.

[EXHIBIT\(fcs67a01\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:03:00 Allen Fulton, sheriff, Rosebud County
00:05:46 Sheryl Wood, associate director, Montana Association of Counties
00:10:09 Jessie Luther, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association
00:13:10 Dore Schwinden, executive director, Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration
00:13:29 Tom Schneider, Montana Public Employee Association
00:14:04 Mark Taylor, Association of Montana Troopers

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

00:14:39 Rep. Custer

HEARING ON HB 123

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:15:32 Rep. Amanda Curtis (D), HD 74, opened the hearing on HB 123, Require certain insurance disclosures to minimize surprise bills.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

00:16:24 Eve Franklin, Montana Optometric Association
00:17:40 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Association of Naturopathic Physicians, Montana Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, Montana Speech Language Hearing Association
00:18:37 Jennifer Hensley, PacificSource Health Plans
00:19:28 David Hemion, executive director, Montana Dental Association

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

00:20:28 Rep. Curtis

HEARING ON HB 586

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:21:23 Rep. Dennis Lenz (R), HD 53, opened the hearing on HB 586, Appropriate funds for City of Laurel water intake project.

[EXHIBIT\(fcs67a02\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:26:16 Rep. Vince Ricci, HD 55
00:27:35 Rep. Tom Richmond, SD 28
00:28:12 Tom Nelson, City of Laurel
00:34:26 Mark Mace, mayor, City of Laurel
00:37:00 Brent Peters, fire chief, City of Laurel
00:38:26 Bethany Keeler, clerk treasurer, City of Laurel
00:39:16 Tim Burton, Montana League of Cities and Towns

Opponents' Testimony:

00:40:29 Andrew Huff, legal counsel, Office of the Governor (GOV)

Informational Testimony:

00:42:06 Jeremiah Theys, Great West Engineering, GWE

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:42:31 Sen. McNally
00:42:58 Mr. Huff, GOV
00:44:12 Sen. McNally
00:44:18 Mr. Huff
00:44:45 Sen. Kary
00:45:10 Mr. Theys, GWE
00:45:51 Sen. Kary
00:46:02 Mr. Theys
00:46:25 Sen. Lang
00:46:48 Mr. Theys
00:47:08 Sen. Whitford
00:47:46 Mr. Mace, Laurel
00:48:17 Sen. Whitford
00:48:25 Sen. Howard joined the meeting.
00:48:36 Ms. Keeler, Laurel

Closing by Sponsor:

00:49:00 Rep. Lenz

HEARING ON HB 70

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:52:13 Sen. Mary Caferro, (D), SD 41, representing Rep. Jessica Karjala (D), HD 48, opened the hearing on HB 70, Strengthening guardianship services and creating a WINGS group.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:53:08 Beth Brenneman, Disability Rights Montana

00:55:04 Jackie Boyle, AARP Montana

[EXHIBIT\(fcs67a03\)](#)

00:56:33 Mike Foster, Catholic Hospitals

00:56:58 Aimee Grmojez, Billings Clinic

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

00:58:00 Sen. Caferro

HEARING ON HB 77

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:58:47 Rep. Randy Brodehl (R), HD 9, opened the hearing on HB 77, Revise public defender system and provide for a director hired by DOA.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:00:42 Amy Sassano, Office of Budget and Program Planning

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

01:01:55 Rep. Brodehl

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 44

01:04:19 **Motion:** Sen. Wolken moved that **HB 44 BE CONCURRED IN.**

01:04:33 **Motion:** Sen. Wolken moved that **HB 44 BE AMENDED CONCEPTUALLY** with the starting date three months earlier.

Discussion:

01:05:03 Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
01:05:17 Julie Johnson, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
01:05:37 Sen. Howard
01:05:51 Sen. Wolken
01:06:17 Sen. Keenan
01:06:26 Sen. Wolken
01:06:35 Ms. Johnson, LSD
01:07:09 Sen. Wolken
01:07:15 Chair Jones
01:07:20 Sen. Wolken withdrew her motion.

Committee Business:

01:07:47 Chair Jones
01:07:50 Sen. Keenan
01:08:03 Chair Jones
01:08:33 Sen. Howard
01:08:35 Chair Jones

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 9:43 AM

Prudence Gildroy, Secretary

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Additional Document

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([fcs67aad.pdf](#))